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Treasurer, Town of Lamoine
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Proposed Revenues Budget FY 2016/17

I am pleased to propose the revenue budget for the coming fiscal year. The spreadsheet supplied with this budget will show a \$118,953.89 reduction in the bottom line. Keep in mind, the school revenue budget is not included, which is \$253,621.30. Excluding schools, the municipal revenue budget is proposed to increase by \$134,667.41.

Interest – Taxes - \$10,000 – Interest on unpaid taxes has been averaging over \$10,000 per year. I don't see any reason why we can't increase the projected receipts to \$10,000 from \$8,500.

Auto Excise - \$300,000 – Excise tax collections took a nosedive in 2008. This is the town's 2nd largest source of revenue, and we track this very closely, generating quarterly reports for the Board of Selectmen. We set a record for excise collections in the previous fiscal year, and this year, we're on pace to eclipse that. Based on the 14/15 actual collections of more than \$309,000, I am comfortable with projecting \$300,000 for 16/17.

Boat Excise Taxes - \$3,500 – For some reason, watercraft excise collections were down a bit in FY 15. The 5-year average is \$3,600 and change, so I'm comfortable leaving that at \$3,500.

Administration Fees - \$300 – These are mainly photocopying fees. We have seen a big decrease in photocopy revenue thanks to the town's website, therefore the proposal to scale back this line by \$150.

Tax Lien Charges - \$4,000 – This matches the lien cost line in the administration budget. We've averaged more than \$4,800 in lien fees collected in the past 5-years, but the number of liens will likely decrease as the economy slowly improves. This line is up \$500 above the currently budgeted amount.

Agent Fees - \$5,700 – No change from the current fiscal year – it's a little below the 5-year average. We get an agent fee for each vehicle registration, dog license, hunting/fishing license and RV registration. I do not anticipate a significant drop.

Revenue Sharing - \$29,993.27 – This represents yet another 10% reduction from the actual expected amount for the current fiscal year. This line is not part of the warrant article, as revenue sharing is subtracted from the tax commitment beyond any revenue reduction. This item has become a political football in recent years, with the governor wanting to eliminate the line all together.

General Assistance Reimbursement - \$1,750 – No change from the current fiscal year. The state's reimbursement rate has increased to 70% from 50%. This too seems subject to legislative political whim.

Interest – Investments - \$7,500 - This is up a bit from the previous fiscal year based on the actual earned and the 5-year average. Rates have not risen dramatically, but our cash flow is much better since withdrawing from RSU 24.

Cell Tower Rental- \$13,800 – We receive \$1,150 / month from American Tower for the Verizon tower rental. No change is expected in the next fiscal year.

Hodgkins Trust Fund - \$15,000 – After discussing the steps project, I’ve placed this amount in the budget to offset that possible cost. The fund has about \$25,000 as of the end of FY 15, and another \$8,400 has come in for this fiscal year.

Surplus Use - \$50,000 – The auditors have not yet finished up their report to us regarding the amount of undesignated fund balance that we had at the end of FY 2015. My preliminary report looks to have a little over \$400,000, but there are adjustments the auditors need to make. However, I am comfortable with increasing the surplus use line to \$50,000.

CEO Fees - \$6,000 – The \$6,000 figure is based on the actual CEO fee revenue received in FY 15. It represents a \$1,000 drop from the current year budget, and is a couple thousand below the 5-year average.

CEO Fund Transfer - \$3,000 – The CEO Fund still has more than \$26,000. The last fiscal year saw the budget bring in a bit more than budgeted and the current year budget is looking very strong thus far.

Plumbing Fees - \$2,500 – This is based on the 5-year average (\$3,001) and the actual for the last fiscal year \$3,362.50 and being very conservative.

Total CEO Fund - \$11,500 – This is down \$1,000 from the previous fiscal year.

Road Assistance - \$22,000 – Like revenue sharing and general assistance, this too is a revenue source that is up to the whim of the Legislature. The amount proposed is based on the actual received in FY 15.

Parks Fund Use - \$150 – The Parks fund has more than \$11,000. I consider that “special projects” funding. The only “special project” is the dog waste dispenser for Marlboro Beach, so I am recommending that \$150 be taken from the Parks Fund for that.

Recreation Fees \$3,500 – Per the presentation of the Recreation Committee, this amount is included to offset recreational expenses. That will mean a net of \$2,400 for rec department expenses. Looking at the fees received thus far, they should be able to achieve it.

Animal Control – The amount proposed is based both on last year and the five year average. This does not quite cover the cost of the animal control budget. The ACO Fund has roughly \$1,900 in it.

Revaluation Reserve Use - \$105,000 – If we plan to go ahead with a revaluation this year, this fund will be utilized to the greatest extent possible. We have just over this amount in that fund.

Total Revenue - \$585,193.27 – The Proposed municipal revenue budget shows an increase of about \$135,000 as mentioned at the top. This will help offset property taxes that will pay for the budget. This will keep the municipal appropriation well under the LD 1 Limit.

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon